

## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 28, 2008. Claims 1, 6 and 16 to 28 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 6, 17, 25 and 26 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 17, 20, 21 and 24 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,727,999 (Takahashi '999) in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,985,245 (Takahashi '245). Claims 5, 16, 18, 29, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takahashi '999 and Takahashi '245 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,874,034 (Hertling). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns distributed printing. In one aspect of the invention, a print server executes distributed printing by determining an output layout of a print document based on output layout information included in the print instruction information and by analyzing color drawing information of the print document in a first mode, and executes distributed printing based on the output layout information and the color attribute information included in the print instruction information in a second mode. Therefore, the print server can perform distributed printing with accurate coloring in the first mode, since it is possible to obtain color drawing information of the print document by analyzing the print document. This mode is very effective especially if some changes are made to the output layout. On the other hand, the print server can also execute the distributed printing much faster in the second mode, since it is possible to designate the output layout and the color attribute based on the print instruction information described by the job ticket without the need of analyzing the print document, although there is some possibility that the color information may not be accurately reflected in the printing.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print managing apparatus which is connected to a plurality of printing apparatuses including a monochromatic printing apparatus and a color printing apparatus via a communication medium. The print managing apparatus includes reception means for receiving a print job which includes a job ticket and a print document via the communication medium, the job ticket describing print instruction information for the print document, the print instruction information including output layout information and color attribute information; designation means for designating one of a plurality of distribution printing modes including a first mode and a second mode in response to a user instruction; reading means for reading the job ticket included in the print job received by the reception means; and print control means for controlling distribution printing in accordance with a designation executed by the designation means. The print control means executes the distribution printing of the print document through the monochromatic printing apparatus and the color printing apparatus by determining output layout of the print document based on the output layout information included in the print instruction information described by the job ticket read by the reading means and by analyzing color drawing information of the print document in the first mode, and executes the distribution printing of the print document through the monochromatic printing apparatus and the color printing apparatus based on the output layout information and the color attribute information included in the print instruction information described by the job ticket read by the reading means in the second mode.

In contrast to the present invention, Takahashi '999 merely discloses monochromatic/color distributed printing. Takahashi '999 discloses a job ticket that is designed as a ticket for managing a job after issuance of the job such as for confirmation of progress of the job. (See Takahashi '999, Fig. 21, column 15, lines 1 to 7). Takahashi '999 further discloses starting a

job utility on a screen corresponding to the job ticket, and monitoring the printer status. (See Takahashi '999, Fig. 22, column 15, lines 8 to 27). In addition, Takahashi '999 discloses an auto mode in which it is determined for each page whether or not the page includes a color image and either a monochromatic or a color printers is designated for each page based on the determination, and a manual mode in which the user may designate either one of the printers for use. (See Takahashi '999, Fig. 15, element 1506, column 8, lines 50 to 55 and column 9, lines 11 to 21).

Takahashi '999, however, fails to disclose or suggest that the print instruction information described by the job ticket includes output layout information and color attribute information, or that the print control means executes the distributed printing by determining output layout of the print document based on the output layout information included in the print instruction information and by analyzing color drawing information of the print document in a first mode, and executes the distributed printing based on the output layout information and the color attribute information included in the print instruction information in a second mode.

Applicant further submits that Takahashi '245 does not overcome the shortcomings of Takahashi '999. Takahashi '245 discloses executing monochromatic/color distributed printing by means of a plurality of printers. Takahashi '245 further discloses that a print job includes command data and image data and that the command data is set on a print setting screen, which is called a "job ticket." (See Takahashi '245 Fig. 22 and column 23, lines 53 to 58). The print job of Takahashi '245 is well-understood in art to generally include command data and image data, and Takahashi '245 merely terms the setting screen for the command data as a "job ticket." Therefore, Applicant submits that the "job ticket" of Takahashi '245 is not the same as the job ticket of the present invention. The job ticket of the present invention is information for a print job that includes print instruction information for the print document, the print instruction information including

output layout information and color attribute information which is entirely different from the display screen “job ticket” of Takahashi ‘245.

In light of the disclosures of Takahashi ‘999 and Takahashi ‘245, Applicant submits that any permissible combination would merely include the features of (a) forming a print job with command data and image data, (b) setting the command data on a print setting screen called a “job ticket,” (c) setting monochromatic/color distributed printing on the “job ticket” screen and executing the printing by means of a plurality of printers, and (d) using an auto mode in which printers are designated by page analysis and a manual mode in which printers are designated by the user by a page unit. However, any such combination would fail to include the features of a job ticket describing print instruction information for a print document, the print instruction information including output layout information and color attribute information and controlling distribution printing in accordance with a designation, wherein the distribution printing of the print document through the monochromatic printing apparatus and the color printing apparatus is controlled by determining output layout of the print document based on the output layout information included in the print instruction information described by the job ticket read by said reading means and by analyzing color drawing information of the print document in a first mode, and executing the distribution printing of the print document through the monochromatic printing apparatus and the color printing apparatus based on the output layout information and the color attribute information included in the print instruction information described by the job ticket in a second mode.

Finally, Applicant has reviewed Hertling and submits nothing in Hertling cures the deficiencies of Takahashi ‘999 and Takahashi ‘245 as Hertling merely discloses that a client may send a print job ticket to a print server and that the print job ticket may be a XML document.

Claims 6, 7, 21, 25 and 26 are directed to a method of managing an apparatus, a system, a method of managing a system, a computer readable medium for an apparatus and a computer readable medium for a system, respectfully, substantially in accordance with Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 6, 7, 21, 25 and 26 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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